

perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Ashley Arriaga for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character to all her future accomplishments.

HONORING THE LIFE AND
ACHIEVEMENTS OF REV. BEN-
JAMIN LAWSON HOOKS

SPEECH OF

HON. DIANE E. WATSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2010

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, today we acknowledge the loss of one of the nation's legendary civil rights icon, Benjamin L. Hooks. Mr. Hooks led the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People from 1977 to 1992.

Mr. Hooks grew up in the segregated South and was a vocal campaigner for civil rights in the United States.

Hooks was a lawyer and an ordained Baptist minister who joined the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and led the NAACP for 15 years.

When Benjamin Hooks took over the helm of the NAACP, the organization was suffering from declining membership and prestige. During his tenure, the NAACP added several hundred thousand new members to its roster.

Under his leadership, the NAACP worked with Major League Baseball on a program that expanded employment opportunities for African-Americans in baseball, including in positions as managers, coaches and in franchise executive offices.

Hooks also worked with colleagues to set up a program in which more than 200 corporations agreed to participate in economic development projects in black communities.

President George W. Bush awarded Hooks the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, in November 2007.

We join the nation, his family, friends, and colleagues in mourning the loss of this legendary leader.

HONORING THE UNIVERSITY OF
MICHIGAN MEN'S GLEE CLUB ON
THEIR 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of one of the most respected and honored musical groups in the nation, the University of Michigan Men's Glee Club.

Alumni of this august group, which has received international acclaim for its outstanding singing over the years, will be hosting a reunion in Ann Arbor to help mark the 150th anniversary of the University of Michigan Men's Glee Club on April 8th through the 11th.

Since the class of 1859–1860, the University of Michigan Men's Glee Club has been entertaining audiences well beyond the boundaries of their namesake. Formed from many different glee clubs, the singular Men's Glee Club has become one of the signature facets of one of the world's foremost universities, which I have the pleasure of representing in Congress.

The group has toured around the world over the past 50 years on behalf of the university. It has been recognized for its excellence from New York City to Europe, South America, and Asia, as well as all across the nation and has won numerous competitions and awards.

The University of Michigan Men's Glee Club ensemble has been so successful and talented that it has spawned many subgroups, including the Friars, who patterned themselves on Yale's Whiffenpoofs. The group's sesquicentennial is being held this April and their camaraderie and tradition is so strong that over 400 alumni have registered to return to campus for the celebration.

Whether it is singing familiar U of M songs like "Laudes atque Carmina" and the alma mater "The Yellow and Blue," or performing classical or humorous songs of the day, the University of Michigan Men's Glee Club has always carried itself with both class and enthusiasm.

There are many things for which I am proud of the University and having such a wonderful asset as the Men's Glee Club is one of my favorite reasons for that pride. As the second oldest of such musical groups in the nation, The University of Michigan Men's Glee Club will continue to bring excellence in musical performances for many more years to come, I am sure.

Madam Speaker, I hope the House will join me in saluting this outstanding musical ensemble on the eve of their 150th anniversary.

ANTONIO VITALE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Antonio Vitale who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Antonio Vitale is a 12th grader at Arvada School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Antonio Vitale is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Antonio Vitale for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character to all his future accomplishments.

HONORING PATRICK GAMBLE

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, today I would like to recognize Patrick Gamble for his service to Alaska and our Nation.

A decorated Vietnam fighter pilot and now retired Four-Star General, Pat served in the United States Air Force for 34 years and distinguished himself as a decisive and capable leader. His military service first brought him to live in Alaska in 1996 as the commander of Alaska's joint military command. Like so many of us who have moved into the State, he was enchanted by the Last Frontier and has remained under its spell.

After retiring from the Air Force, he returned to Alaska as President and CEO of the Alaska Railroad, the Nation's only full service, year round scheduled passenger and freight railroad, and in my opinion, the most scenic railroad in the country. It stands as a pillar in Alaska's economy and will play a key role in the future of our great State. Through Pat's vision, the railroad has grown dramatically and promoted economic development throughout communities along the railbelt.

Pat was recently selected to replace Mark Hamilton as the President of the University of Alaska, the State's 15-campus university system which provides for the educational needs of 32,000 students every year. This new position is a continuation of many years of educational leadership, including having served as the commandant of the U.S. Air Force Academy and on the boards of five schools. In addition to ensuring a quality education, he plans to focus his efforts as university president on gaining more public support for the University of Alaska, continuing the university's strong presence in research important to Alaskans, and engaging the university in broader State economic development opportunities.

General Gamble has earned himself a reputation as a strong leader and a man of outstanding personal character. He is an excellent asset to our State, and I am proud to have this opportunity to commend his continued service to Alaska.

HONORING HUGH CODDING

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague, Representative MIKE THOMPSON, to honor the life and memory of Hugh Coddington, who helped shape and define Sonoma County over the course of the 92 years he was with us. He was a legend in his lifetime; a home builder, commercial developer, banker, city councilman, civic leader and philanthropist, who during the construction boom years of the 1950s and '60s, changed the face of the county forever.

He built his first home in the 1930s and honed construction skills in the Seabees in World War II and brought those skills home with him. He leveraged his \$400 discharge pay into a construction project and with profits